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04/03/1986 - Board Of Governors

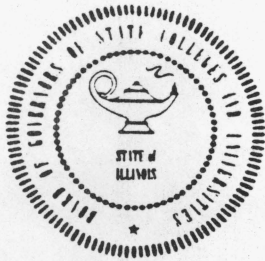
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

LOCAL

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NEWS

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS--April 3, 1986--College students at five Illinois universities can and do receive help if they experience difficulty with certain critical skills necessary to cope with college-level coursework.

The opportunity to strengthen areas of academic weakness is a small but important facet of the support available at those institutions comprising the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities (BOG) System. A report on special assistance released today by the BOG indicates that, depending upon the university, between 10 and 50 percent of its students receive, for a time, some form of special academic assistance while they are in college.

Today's Chancellor's report to the Board indicated the purpose, scope and size of the special assistance programs in the System. Each President's report provided details on the specific university programs and success rates.

Chancellor Thomas D. Layzell stated the importance of special assistance for some of the BOG students.

"It's not unusual for our students to be the first generation from their family to attend college. Academic support is in some cases crucial to the success of these students in coping with the rigors of college-level work. The study we are releasing today offers some commendable examples of effective special assistance programs," said Layzell.

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Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities System:

Chicago State University • Eastern Illinois University, Charleston • Governors State University, University Park
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago • and Western Illinois University, Macomb

The types of programs offered range from a Department of Special Services at Northeastern Illinois University which serves students who demonstrate academic promise but do not qualify for regular admission to the use of peer tutors at Chicago State University, and Eastern and Western Illinois Universities.

"The use of peer tutors is an effective means of extending assistance to students while providing a measure of personal support through role models," said Layzell.

Special assistance programs at the BOG universities are supported by both federal and state funds. Chancellor Layzell commented on the priority that special assistance has in the budget.

"Both our own Board of Governors and the Board of Higher Education have identified increased retention rates for underprepared students as a budget priority. While allocating new funds to Special Assistance Programs is a high priority, we must also take steps to insure that existing funds are being used as efficiently as possible," said Layzell.

NOTE TO EDITOR: For information about Special Assistance Programs at the specific BOG universities, contact:

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- Eastern Illinois University
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- Governors State University
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